TRANSFERRING ENCRYPTED
PACKETS OVER A PUBLIC NETWORK

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Abstract

The invention features receiving encrypted network
5   packets sent over a network at a network interface computer,
and passing the encrypted network packets to a computer on
an internal network.

The invention also features receiving encrypted
network packets at a first computer over a network from a
10   second computer, examining a field in each network packet to
determine which of a plurality of encryption algorithms was
used to encrypt the network packet, and decrypting the
network packet in accordance with the determined encryption
algorithm.

15   The invention further features receiving network
packets sent over a network, determining which virtual
tunnel each network packet was sent over, and routing each
network packet to a destination computer in accordance with
the determined virtual tunnel.

20   The invention features encrypting network packets at
a computer connected to an internal network, passing the
encrypted network packet over the internal network to a
public network interface computer, and passing the encrypted
network packet over a public network connected to the
25   network interface computer.

The invention features receiving network packets
sent over a network, determining which virtual tunnel each
network packet was sent over, and determining whether a
source computer that sent each network packet is authorized
30   to send network packets over the determined virtual tunnel.

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